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THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN
September 30, 2015

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

HIGHER EDUCATION - C

COMMUNITY COLLEGES - VC

JUDICIARY - VC

CAPITAL OUTLAY

JUDICIARY - VC

ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

RE: MB Docket No. 15-149

Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

As a Michigan State Senator, I know it is important for our government to encourage businesses that aim to improve their industries through competition and consumer compassion. I believe the merger of Charter Communications, Time Warner Cable, and Bright House Networks would bring the latest technology to consumers of all needs and capacities, and I urge the commission to approve the merger.

The merger would produce New Charter, a company intent on reaching all consumers through strategic investment. New Charter would focus on the needs of rural and underserved communities by improving broadband capacity and offering discounted rates. For example, it would invest in commercial and residential networks in order to bring fiber-optics to those that are saddled with slow and unreliable connections. The company would also offer its high-quality broadband to low-income customers at a reduced rate. Each of these efforts would bring the latest broadband technology to consumers who are regularly underserved by the cable industry.

I am pleased to see New Charter would work to meet consumer needs through various investment projects. I believe the company would serve as a great example for the cable industry, and I urge its approval.

Sincerely,

Tonya Schuitmaker
State Senator
District 26